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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be
Typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in
order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may
be corrected.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

In the advertising pages, in this issue, will be found some special notices of importance to all members. These refer to the Register and Directory, now in process of compilation, and to the changes in the matter of the payment of dues, the status of a member in regard to medical defense, etc.

It may be here announced that the proposition to increase the assessment for 1912 by \$1.00, for the purpose of prosecuting illegal practitioners, was not approved by the county societies and consequently there is no additional assessment.

There is much wisdom, philosophy and innate honesty in children; it is as we grow up that we mask our real natures and cultivate "policy" and dissimulation. So too there is much of truth in the sayings of children. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me" contains in it more true philosophy than many chapters in many books. Some friends and some other friends (?) of your JOURNAL and its editor are much exercised because no attention has ever been paid to the many abusive attacks upon us that have appeared from time to time during the whole period of our existence as a publication. Filthy, abusive personalities are not argument. Comment that is obviously paid for by the dirty dollars of dirty and dishonest nostrum manufacturers, hurts nobody

save him who utters it or him who takes it seriously. There is nothing elevating in replying to attacks that are dishonest in origin and merely vile and abusive in their nature. Life is too short to waste any of it in thus sacrificing one's self-respect. Honest criticism, an honest fight, will always be welcome; personal abuse, perverted and dishonest attacks, will always be ignored—as they have been.

A gem of thought that is far too good to be wasted in a "six-point foot note" even in so estimable a publication as the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, is the following paragraph which Dr. W. T. Councilman appends to an address on "Experiences of a Medical Teacher" in the issue for June 27th. Speaking of optimism, he says:

"On critically reading this, the writer feels that some further elucidation is necessary. Of course, it is possible for a man to create about himself a fool's paradise in which he may dwell in happy contentment. He can quickly create such an environment by well-selected stages of alcoholic intoxication. The great trouble comes with the voluntary selection of optimism as a career. To most men, evil becomes deterrent by its exhibition in others. Thus, to the pure in heart, vice by demonstration is made abhorrent; to earnest, sober men, drunkenness is unattractive, and an agent at times so useful as is alcohol may be totally condemned. Although some may temporarily cover themselves with a cloak of optimism, using it as the wolf used the sheep skin, the only genuine and constant optimists are the beneficiaries of a protective tariff, syphilitics in the early stages of general paralysis, some successful clinicians, who turn to financial use their God-given intuitions of disease, and some presidents of colleges. The revelations of optimism which one gains from these sources makes the state of mind seem unattractive. But on the other hand if the world as seen seems good don't change your glasses."

The annual meeting of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City was a distinct success. The attendance was very good—within a small number of reaching the high water mark for Atlantic City meetings. A very large amount of work was done by the House of Delegates, but probably the most important single action taken was the decision to call a meeting of the Secretaries of all State Medical organizations to be held in Chicago this Fall, for the purpose of securing some more generally similar and satisfactory method of regulating membership. The President, in his address to the House of Delegates, made some recommendations that would have been far reaching and disastrous had they

THE A. M. A. MEETING.

been carried out. But the House of Delegates wisely rejected these, and perhaps the most charitable thing to do is to make no further comment. Minneapolis is to be the place of the next meeting, the exact date not having as yet been determined. The officers elected are as follows:

President-Elect, Dr. John A. Witherspoon, Nashville, Tenn.; First Vice-President, Dr. Philander A. Harris, Paterson, N. J.; Second Vice-President, Dr. John L. Heffron, Syracuse, N. Y.; Third Vice-President, Dr. H. H. McClanahan, Omaha, Neb.; Fourth Vice-President, Dr. Henry D. Fry, Washington, D. C.; Secretary, Dr. Alexander R. Craig, Chicago; Treasurer, Dr. William Allen Pusey, Chicago; Trustees, Dr. M. L. Harris, Chicago; Dr. C. A. Daugherty, South Bend, Ind.; Dr. W. T. Councilman, Boston; Member of the Judicial Council, Dr. George W. Guthrie, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Member of Council on Health and Public Instruction, Dr. Walter B. Cannon, Boston; Members of Council on Medical Education, Dr. James W. Holland, Philadelphia; Dr. W. D. Haggard, Nashville, Tenn.

There seems to be some slight misunderstanding in regard to the giving of free treatment for rabies and for that reason the following official statement is published:

FREE TREATMENT FOR RABIES.

"You are correct in your understanding regarding the persons who are given Pasteur treatment by the state. The Board of Health furnishes treatment at the State Hygienic Laboratory and its branches to those persons who need it and are unable to purchase it from their private physicians. Persons desiring the treatment must apply to the local health officers, who in turn are expected to telegraph to the Secretary of the State Board of Health, vouching for the suitability of the case, financially and otherwise, for free treatment. The State Hygienic Laboratory makes no charge for the treatments of those persons who are accepted. In fact the laboratory receives no money except through its appropriation. It will be of benefit to us, as well as to the commercial houses of the state, if you will give the conditions under which treatment is obtained such publicity as you are able."

From Texas comes the kindly warning that a man by the name of J. B. Ruffo, claiming to be a physician, has victimized a number of persons in that state. He is supposed to be somewhere in Southern California; last heard of at San Diego. He tells quite a tale of woe and is a plausible and convincing talker. A number of photographs of the man have been sent to the office of the JOURNAL and if you think you have this gentleman in your community, write to the Secretary and he will forward a photograph.

The Hon. John D. Works (formerly referred to by the San Francisco *Examiner* as Judge "Spring Valley Water" Works), California's contribution to that awful and fearful body known as the United States Senate, delivered himself, on April 29th and 30th, of some more truly intelligent remarks. If the whole world could only have this grade of intelligence to guide it, it would be a much more amusing place than it is; something idiotic would be doing every moment! A goodly portion of the time of our excessively expensive Senate was taken up by this apparently semi-demented Works in the task of promoting eddyism and lying about the American Medical Association and the work of American physicians. It is doubtful whether any other document of similar size contains so many lies, so many half-truths cleverly distorted and so much absolute tommyrot as does the printed "Speech of Hon. John D. Works of California in the Senate of the United States." And of course this speech is printed in large quantities—by the Government—free of charge to Works. Equally of course, it is widely circulated by Works—at the expense of the Government. And then some people wonder why the Post Office does not pay and why it costs so much to run the country! Foolish questions!

Sometimes there is such a thing as too much of our old adage, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum."

This view seems to be shared with some editors of lay publications, for concerning the death of our late notorious citizen, "Dr." C. C. O'Donnell, the *Stockton Mail* has this to say:

WONDER OF WONDERS!

"The death of Dr. C. C. O'Donnell was noticed by some of the San Francisco newspapers with bashful coyness. One might have thought that a commonplace physician, no better and no worse than the ordinary run, had quit his pills and boluses to twang a harp on the other side of Jordan. As a matter of fact, the fellow was notorious. He ought to have died long ago. If the Devil isn't frying him on a particularly hot grid-iron right now, nobody is in any danger of being cooked for his sins in the next world. He certainly was a detestable character. But he was a steady advertiser."

Similarity of thought invaded the office of the *Fresno Mirror*, for about the same date we find this editorial comment:

"In the death of Dr. C. C. O'Donnell San Francisco loses a citizen it could have spared many years ago. Probably it would have been better if he had never been born at all. He was an ill-smelling joke as a politician and a disgrace to the medical profession. If he had had his deserts he would have died in jail."